

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1004 - SB 1119**

March 2, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires a discount of at least 50 percent on camping fees at state parks for veterans who have any service-connected disability that is determined by the Veterans Administration to be a 100 percent permanent total disability.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Revenue – Exceeds \$10,100/Tennessee State Parks Fund**

Assumptions:

- Currently, the Tennessee State Parks (TSPs) offers a 50 percent discount in the off-season and a 25 percent discount during the in-season for veterans at state park camp sites.
- Any fiscal impact related to off-season discounts is estimated to be not significant because the discount rate in the proposed legislation is the same discount rate offered in the off-season under current law.
- According to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the total dollar value of in-season discounts for all Tennessee veterans (without any disability restrictions) at the current 25 percent discount rate is approximately \$101,300. This number is assumed to remain constant under current law.
- The total dollars that would be collected by TSPs from all veterans if no discounts were allowed would be approximately \$405,200 (\$101,300 / 25% discount).
- A 50 percent discount rate applicable to all veterans would equate to a total dollar value of discounts equal to \$202,600 (\$405,200 x 50%).
- The percent of veterans with 100 percent service related disability is unknown; however, the percent of veterans with a 70 percent or greater service related disability is estimated to be 7.6 percent; therefore, it is reasonably assumed that at least 5.0 percent would be eligible for the 50 percent discount rate.
- The recurring decrease in state revenue to the Tennessee State Parks Fund (TSPF) is estimated to exceed \$10,130 (\$202,600 x 5.0%).
- Passage of this legislation could incentivize some additional veterans with 100 percent service related disabilities to take advantage of the higher 50 percent discount under the provisions of this legislation when they would not have taken advantage of the 25 percent discount under current law; which would otherwise generate additional revenue for the TSPF. However, camp sites during in-season are in very high demand and

assumed to be 100 percent occupied. To the extent additional veterans with 100 percent service related disabilities replace other camp site visitors who are paying full price camp site fees, there could be additional recurring decreases in revenue to the TSPF.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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